

Methodology

SURVEY TOOL

Quality control reviews are conducted by the staff of the CDSS Field Operations Bureau and of the Performance Measurement Counties (PMC) using the Research and Development Enterprise Project (RADEP). The RADEP is a web-based data collection and reporting tool that is used for federal reporting requirements, policy development, program evaluation and characteristics surveys.

The data in this report reflect characteristics of households receiving CalFresh benefits for at least one month during the relevant fiscal year. The information was derived from review of case records, third party verifications and CalFresh recipient interviews, which were conducted to verify data in the files and to provide additional information not be found in the case records. The Medi-Cal Eligibility Data System (MEDS) file was used to supplement these data. In order to help case reviewers identify cases in RADEP, the existing CPS data is supplemented with MEDS data. The MEDS file contains 330 data fields on participants of publicly subsidized programs that include personal information, demographics, aid codes, program status, county of services and other identifying information offering descriptive profiling to the CPS name, address, and eligibility status.

SAMPLING INFORMATION

The sampled cases were drawn from a county CalFresh Monthly Issuance File. This file consisted of all certified eligible households that were issued CalFresh benefits in a particular month. Each month, a random sample of CalFresh household cases is drawn from the 19 PMCs. The sample of the 19 PMCs represents approximately 90 percent of the statewide sample. An additional sample is drawn from the remaining 39 counties as a whole.

DATA PRESENTATION

The data in this publication were derived using statistical methodology to expand the number of sample cases to the actual number of CalFresh cases that received CalFresh benefits during the twelve-month period in the fiscal year. Since the sample was drawn from a household file (not persons), the person data were also expanded using statistically derived case weights. Due to sample expansion, the frequencies may or may not be the same as those found in other reports. Also, because of rounding, the frequencies may or may not add up to the totals vertically and/or horizontally. However, the differences are small and often not statistically significant.

RELIABILITY OF THE DATA

Since the information presented in the tables was based on a sample, it may differ somewhat from figures that would have been obtained if a complete census had been taken. Comparison of data from multiple sources (sample reviews, county reports and comparable prior studies) shows the information to be quite reliable. However, as with all sample data, caution should be exercised in the interpretation of figures when based on a relatively small number of cases.

The CalFresh survey is based upon a random sample selection process that has a confidence level of 95 percent and a precision of plus or minus two percent.

Below there is a table displaying the number of sampled cases per fiscal year.

Federal Fiscal Year	Number of Sampled Cases
2010	5,711
2011	5,583
2012	5,545
2013	5,480
2014	5,645
2015	5,570
2016	4,781
2017	5,543